JARVIS SPEAKS: AVENGERS' BUTLER TELLS ALL!

write this page!

While we're judging the results of last issue's cover contest, here's another chance to win one-of-a-kind prizes! And all you've got to do is.....

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT NUMBERS

—or—

"When Goofs the Editor!"

Stan Lee once forgot what Bruce Banner's name was. Roy Thomas once got a "hand" and a "heart" mixed-up in an issue of CONAN. Marv Wolfman freely admits to an occasional proofreading mistake. Surely, then, I can be forgiven for one tiny error on last issue's Irving Awards ballot?

I mean, how was *I* to know that there is no such thing as a...blush..."Foom Number"?

When I was a member of the old MMMS (Merry Marvel Marching Society), *I* had a MMMS number. So I just naturally *assumed* FOOM members had *their* own personal numbers! Really dumb, Isabella.

I'm sorry if I caused you any confusion, troops. I hope I've got my act in better shape this go-round. On paper, it sure looks like it. We've got the first half of a two-part Avengers feature (illustrated by Dave Cockrum!), lots of inside info, Forbush-Man, and a fistful of far-out features.

This issue's theme is THE AVENGERS. Last ish, I asked you to figure out how we were going to cover all our awesome assemblers. The answer: devote *two* issues to Earth's mightiest heroes. This issue, we've got an interview with Jarvis, a Black Panther contest, and a Forbush-Man strip starring the Scarlet Witch and the Vision. And next issue, we've got even more surprises to astound you!

Also in the future: the winners of our cover contest, the results of the Irving Awards, and much more. Hey, if you haven't got *your* votes in yet, send 'em today. We want all FOOMers to get involved in these awards.

One last thing: don't let anybody tell you that FOOM is getting less attention now that it's being run right from the Marvel Bullpen. Okay, so we're busy. Who isn't? FOOM is being produced by some of the finest writers, artists, and production people I've ever worked with. Baby, what these folks do in a week would take anybody else a year! If using the very best talents available is a sign of "less attention", then it don't rain in Wakanda and Odin didn't make little green Hulks. Yeah!

Okay, pilgrims, there's lots of fine material waitin' for you within these pages, so let's get into it NOW!

—T.I.

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That's right. All you have to do is compose the captions and dialogue for this page, just as if you were Don McGregor, the bombastic scripter of the Black Panther. Write the page, indicate where the balloons, captions, and sound effects should go and send it to us. The best-written entry will receive a reproduction of this page, with his or her script lettered in by Marvel's own Tom Orzechowski. The winning writer will also receive Don's original plot and script for JUNGLE ACTION #12, from which this page is taken. Don't feel bad if you come in second or third either, 'cause the runners-up are going to receive reproductions of this page also—with their scripts lettered on them. So get those creative juices going and go to it!

Send your entries to: WRITE THIS PAGE
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Tell 'em T'Challa sent ya!

FOOM INTERVIEW: Jarvis

You remember when we told you last issue that we were going to discuss all our titantic Avengers in our feature article? You probably wondered how we could squeeze the entire saga of the Avengers into one issue of FOOM? Well, we answered that question in our editorial—the Avengers are going to be featured in both this issue and the next. But even with two issues of coverage we still wouldn't be able to do justice to the Earth's mightiest heroes. Fortunately, we happened across a fellow with contacts at the Avengers mansion and were able to obtain an exclusive interview with probably the only person on earth who knows more about the Avengers than Rascally Roy and Stainless Steve! Who is it? Just read on, MacDuff, and all will be revealed!

It has been barely eleven years since the rashness of the Norse god Loki inadvertently caused the formation of the Avengers. The Avengers, brought together by chance, have at times included amongst their ranks some of the mightiest beings to walk the planet. But while Avengers have come and gone, there has been one man who has shared in it all...a man who has managed to escape the public limelight and who has remained all but anonymous through it all. He answers to the name of Jarvis, and for these many years he has been the one, lone servant retained by this most colorful group of heroes. It was FOOM's good fortune recently to convince Mr. Jarvis to consent to an interview. Before giving his consent, it should be noted, he contacted every Avenger possible. All graciously gave their permission for him to speak. Many, in fact, encouraged Jarvis to be fully open and candid in his recollections. For this we thank them.

FOOM: Jarvis, if our information is correct, you have been the Avengers' butler since their formation. Is that true?

JARVIS: Quite so. While I did not observe their first battle, it was shortly thereafter that I met each of the original Avengers when they first assembled at Mr. Stark's townhouse.

F: Then you had been Anthony Stark's butler before that?

J: Yes, I entered Mr. Stark's employ in 1960.

F: That was before his trip to Vietnam. . .

J: Yes, it was. You see, I had worked for a rather elderly couple throughout the fifties. When they passed on, I was referred to Mr. Stark. He had just built the townhouse, and he was starting to assemble a domestic staff when I approached him. . .

F: What was it like working for Tony Stark in those days?

J: Oh, quite the party atmosphere, I should say! Mr. Stark's fortunes had just begun to blossom! He ran most of the business himself in those days and he was always on the go! Worked hard and played hard! He would surround himself with luxury, but his own personal tastes were rather simple. The master bedroom was actually smaller than most, but he had a massive workshop and study built next to it! There were many times when he'd be struck with an idea while in the midst of some gala party; then he'd just excuse himself for a few hours, pursue the idea to its fruitation, and rejoin the party as if nothing had happened! It was quite different when he returned from Asia. He had little to say

If I hadn't known Mr. Stark better, I would have accused him of drinking! Norse gods...insect people... a green monster!

"Still thine heart! Thor of Asgard will be pleased by thine service!" I think that must have been one of the greatest compliments ever paid me! That my service should please an immortal!

Well, I don't for a moment think that Cap will ever be actually cured—as you put it—of his guilt He will probably carry it with him to his grave. We all have our albatross, you know.

about his ordeal, but I could tell he had changed. He seemed much more solemn than before. We weren't to find out how badly his heart had been injured for some time. How he kept going all those years is a bit beyond me! I'm surprised he was able to keep it a secret for so long! But then he nearly became a recluse after his return. In fact, he had all but moved out of the mansion when he leased it to the Avengers.

P: What was it like...that first meeting with the Avengers?

J: Most unusual, I assure you! (Laughs) Mr. Stark came running in late one afternoon, all flushed with excitement. I hadn't seen him so pleased since before his ordeal! He sat me down

and immediately told me of the Avengers' first encounter...just as Iron Man had relayed it to him. Well, I don't mind telling you it was a fantastic tale! If I hadn't known Mr. Stark better, I would have accused him of drinking! Norse gods...insect people...a green monster! Well, of course, I knew of such beings! The papers were full of them! And once while shopping, I had actually seen the

Fantastic Four soaring over the city in search of the Sub-Mariner. And of course there was Iron Man! He had often come to the mansion on errands for Mr. Stark! But to have so many super-beings in one place at one time! And they were to be there that very night! Mr. Stark had given them some sort of lease to the place...for their use as a combination headquarters and meeting hall! Well, I don't need to tell you that my small staff walked out almost immediately! Visiting luminaries and jet-setters they could take, but super-beings would be quite another thing! I admit that I was a bit shaken myself! But...well...Mr. Stark looked so crestfallen! So I told him to pay them no heed...that I'd tough it out myself! After all, the mansion did literally take care of itself, what with all the devices Mr. Stark had installed!

F: So then you had the chore of setting the table for the first meeting of the Avengers.

J: And on just a few hours' notice! I had only newspaper accounts to rely on as to who the guests were to be. I had no idea what to serve! But I pulled a few roasts and a turkey out of the pantry and threw a few appetizers together. I had barely gotten things prepared when they began to arrive. Fortunately Iron Man was the first, and as we had met, he arranged to introduce me to my new...ah...employers.

Thor arrived shortly and I was totally awe-struck by him! He's quite tall, you know, and there's a noticeable air of nobility about him. I do believe I was about to kneel when he placed his great hand upon my shoulder. He just looked at me for what seemed to be the longest time, and then he said, "Still thine heart! Thor of Asgard will be pleased by thine service!" I think that must have been one of the greatest compliments ever paid me! That my service should please an immortal! And I had only just met him! Ah, but nothing could have prepared me for my next encounter!

There was a horrendous crash outside and then the door was nearly ripped off its hinges by the Hulk! I think that even had we known him to be Dr. Banner in those days, I still would have been just as shaken! He stood as tall as the Thunder God, but he was at least twice as broad! He walked....no, he seemed to bound into the foyer, rather than walk! I'm afraid that I passed out at that point. Quite embarassing when you think about it. There I was, a seasoned domestic fainting dead away like some hyperventilated school girl—And in front of the most powerful beings imaginable!

F: Considering the circumstances, we're sure you could be excused for your reaction. What happened when you recovered?

J: (Laughs) As I came to I had the distinct impression that I was dreaming! There was a little pixie, barely larger than the tip of your finger, flittering about my head with an ammonia capsule in her hands! It was the Wasp, of course. She and the Ant-Man had arrived just after I had fainted. Anyway, Iron Man was there by my side and he helped me to my feet. The Hulk muttered something about old fools, and Thor gave him the most baleful look! I do believe there might have been blows right there, but I begged the pardon of all present and admitted that I was foolish to pass out on those I was supposed to serve. It seemed to calm the Hulk. I could almost see a look of gratitude on his coarse features, but it lasted only a minute. He seemed so indecisive, as though he was fighting for control over the Hulk! If only we had known! Mr. Stark might have been able to help him. Oh, well...we mustn't dwell on past errors.

F: Other than your shaky introductions, what all went on at that first meeting?

J: Well, I bade them enter the dining room and I hurried to serve the courses. To tell the truth, I was at a bit of a loss as to how to seat Ant-Man and the Wasp, but they solved that problem themselves! I recall there was an acrid hint of gas for a moment, and then they slowly grew to full size! I believe it must have been the first time anyone had witnessed the change!

F: That's fascinating, but...

J: Hmmm...oh, yes....the meeting! Well, I'm afraid I can't give you too many specifics on that first meeting, as I was a bit busy dashing back and forth! But Iron Man more or less took charge after dinner. It was he who suggested the need for organization. And along with Ant-Man and Thor, he wrote up the Avenger by-laws in just a few minutes. As I recall, the Hulk sat back and said very little. He was extremely withdrawn throughout the whole proceedings. The Wasp was just the opposite...very lively and curious. While the others debated over rules, she was poking her head all about the mansion. I wound up giving her a complete tour of the place before the night was over. You know, she wore no mask in those early days! And as I led her about the mansion I had the uncanny feeling I had seen her before! I had, of course! Janet Van Dyne had been quite the debutante but a few years earlier. I made no comment on it at the time. It has never been my place to meddle in the Avengers' personal lives. She was still very young, but she had a maturity beyond her years. Oh, she might have put on a flighty, coquettish act before the others, but it was mostly sham! I got the distinct impression that it was her little joke on the world! But we're

Cockrum '78

getting away from the subject, aren't we?

F: A bit, but that's all right! Your impressions of the Avengers are very important!

J: Really? Oh, well...getting back to that meeting...by the time the Wasp and I returned, Iron Man had the by-laws all worked out. There was a bit more debate, the by-laws were approved, and all present signed the charter. And that was that. The Avengers went their separate ways, and I retired with a good glass of sherry. The next morning I delivered the prepared news release to the papers. The Avengers were offically a team!

F: How about their adventures after that first meeting? We'd like to have your impressions of these!

J: Well, you should understand that I rarely observed their actual battles. I was almost always given a first-hand account...in the early days by Miss Van Dyne and later by Captain America. I did, however, often come in on the aftermath. For example, when they held their next meeting, it was my day off. If I had been present in the mansion, I would have very likely fallen victim to the Space Phantom! As it was, I had to arrange for the repair of the damage that alien caused while in the guise of the Hulk. And we had no sooner finished cleaning up *that* mess, than the *real* Hulk returned and made a total shambles

of the place! Of course, by that time the Avengers had found Captain America!

F: You got to know Captain America fairly well, didn't you?

J: Oh, my word, yes! For the longest time he was the only live-in Avenger! It was the surprise of the decade when he was found, you know! He had been a veritable legend in his own time, and for him to suddenly show up young and as mighty as the day he disappeared! Well! It was front-page news for several months! While he lived at the mansion, I grew to know him better than I ever could the other Avengers.... better than I even knew Mr. Stark, I daresay! For quite a few years the Avengers was his only life...all that he knew. What else was there? His life had been interrupted for some twenty years! Much of the world he had known was gone! I remember he used to sit for hours with his scrapbooks...just reading and staring off into space....like he could hardly believe what had happened to him. I think it was his constant action with the Avengers that kept him going during those first few years. He seemed to thrive on activity! I'm sure it kept him from going mad! The first few months in particular he was terribly moody. He's actually a very gentle man, you know, and he felt a terrible guilt over the death of his partner. I remember once...it must have been shortly after Baron Zemo had struck with the Masters of Evil...young Rick Jones had been going through some of Cap's old things that had been recovered from a government storage depot. He came across one of Bucky's old uniforms and he tried it on to show Cap. Well, the man flew into an absolute rage! he screamed and shouted at the boy! Said he'd never have another partner...that he didn't want another death on his hands! Rick left the room, but Cap was inconsolable for hours. He actually raved! He swore that he'd bring Zemo to justice. But in the end, of course, it was Zemo who caused his own downfall.

F: Well, we know that Captain America since has taken other partners. What do you think cured Cap of his guilt?

J: Well, I don't for a moment think that Cap will ever be actually cured—as you put it—of his guilt. He will probably carry it with him to his grave. We all have our albatross, you know. He has, however, learned to live with his guilt...to realize that Bucky is dead and that nothing can ever change that. I believe that Zemo's death was a turning point. When Zemo was killed by that landslide, Cap found a kind of revenge. But he realized how hollow it was. Whatever the case, Cap's life changed drastically after that...as did mine! Before, I had been little more than a caretaker for a half-empty mansion. Afterwards, I was full-time servant to a wholly new group of super-beings!

F: Ah, yes! That first big change in the Avengers' line-up! That took the public by surprise at the time.

J: As it did me! (Laughs) That the Avengers should change was inevitable, though! Thor was continually being drawn away by Asgardian affairs. And Mr. Stark's business was taking up more and more of Iron Man's time. As for Giant-Man and the Wasp...well, I seemed to sense that they felt out of place with the Avengers...that they somehow belonged elsewhere. Even at that, I was shocked when I heard the Wasp suggest a leave of absence...even more surprised when Iron Man suggested that they disband!

F: Then you witnessed that meeting?

J: Ummm...let's say I was an unwilling eavesdropper. You see, I had been surprised by the entrance of Mr. Barton...Hawkeye...and had found myself securely bound outside the meeting room when they were trying to decide the fate of the Avengers. As a matter of fact, Hawkeye's presence was quite timely! If he hadn't shown up when he did...there might not be an Avengers today! At any rate, his request for membership started the others thinking more along the lines of replacements and less of disbanding. For all their battle-weariness, they had enjoyed being Avengers! It gets in ones blood, you know!

F: Shortly afterward Hawkeye was joined by Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. And then Cap reappeared after being missing for some time, right?

J: Well, partially! Captain America had defeated Baron Zemo in a remote portion of the Amazon, and then literally had to walk out! That took some time even for the good Captain let me assure you! By the time he had returned to New York, the new Avengers had been chosen. It was his reappearance that freed the others. With Captain America as leader, Iron Man, Giant-Man, and the Wasp felt secure in taking their leaves-of-absence. And this new position helped Cap as well.

F: How so?

J: It gave him...ah...new responsibilities. Not only to himself and the new Avengers, but to the old Avengers as well! He was very indebted to the older Avengers for bringing him back from the dead, so to speak. That, coupled with his own personal pride, made him whip the new Avengers into as fine a team as the old had been...perhaps

Cockrum '74

even better!

F: Now that's interesting! There were those who said the new Avengers could never touch the record of the old. Yet you seem to think they were better. Why?

J: They were a better team! After all, the new Avengers were constantly living, working, and training together. It was only natural that they would learn to mesh better in teamwork. As powerful as the originals, no! Not from a raw power standpoint! But as a *team* they were much better.

F: We know that some internal conflicts arose in the Avengers after the change. Would you say any were serious?

J: No! Definitely not! Yes, there was bickering and sulking. Certainly there were more personal squabbles. But you must remember that these new Avengers were relatively young. The three were barely into their twenties. They had never truly worked as part of a team before. And all that power...that boundless ability of theirs ...was bottled up in three very proud, very brash packages. Plus you had the problem of such strong familial ties between Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. They had to learn to rely on someone other than themselves for a change. True, Captain America had his hands full getting those three to work together, but I think he did an admirable job.

F: Yet, of the three, only the Scarlet Witch is still what you would call a *regular* Avenger. Why is that?

J: My dear fellow! Nothing is ever very permanent as far as the Avengers are concerned! Things happen that cause the Avengers to change! Things over which they have very little control! Who could have foreseen a maniac like the Collector forcing Mr. Pym to return as Goliath? Or the return of Magneto? Or that Hercules would once again walk the earth? The Avengers may be a team, but they are a team made up of very individual personalities! Only the Avengers could change to accomodate the many members it has had! In what other group could you find a Norse *and* an Olympian god, an African prince, a knight reincarnate, a supreme archer, two mutants, a sentient android, an armored adventurer, a revived New Deal patriot, two insect people, a giant, and now a sword-wielding soldier-of-fortune and a mistress of the martial arts? And all of them fighting for a common goal! If I'm sounding defensive, I'm not about to apologize! The Avengers are and have been some of the finest people this planet has ever hosted. We'd all be a lot poorer without them.

We regret that space limitations force us to halt our interview at this point. Next issue, we hope to present more of Mr. [illegible]'s recollections and impressions, in particular his comments [illegible] and his involvement in the [illegible].

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MARVEL BULLPEN PROFILES

Steve Englehart

"A reader wrote in to a letters page asking why Superboy did not fly to Europe and help the Allies battle Hitler. The editor answered that Superboy didn't want to get involved in politics. It was a cop-out answer. I stopped reading comics for a number of years."

The speaker is Steve Englehart, the multi-talented scripter of THE AVENGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, CAPTAIN MARVEL, and DR. STRANGE. Comics almost lost him then. As it was, he was recovered by Norman G. Fester a.k.a. The Looter.

"I was nineteen at the time and going to college in Connecticut. A friend of mine gave me a copy of Spider-Man #36 to read— it was called "When Falls the Meteor". That issue had an editorial note after the first appearance of the villain—The Looter in his secret identity. The note went:

You guessed it, friend! N.G.F. is a part time nut!

"I was hooked. I immediately went to this funky old newsstand near the campus where they never took a comic off sale and bought three months' worth of Marvel Comics."

After schoo

"I enlisted in the Army to avoid the draft. The recruiters had told me I'd be made a foot soldier if I were drafted. Once I got in, they told me that a guy with my college background would never be a foot soldier. I was working in the public information department, rea "Selling of the Pentagon" stuff.

Hmm. maybe that's where Steve got his first experience writing fiction.

Steve eventually got out of the Army on a conscientous objector discharge. We asked him if that had proven difficult.

"Yeah. But I was sincere in my beliefs and I proved it beyond any doubts. There was some harassment while I waited for the discharge to go through. No night riders coming at midnight to beat me up, though. Just extra guard duty and extra K.P."

While he was still in the Army, Steve took advantage of a 3-day pass and traveled to New York. He wanted to find work as some artist's assistant.

"I went to schoo with Wayne Howard, who was then working as an assistant to Wally Wood. He kept telling me how much he learned and and what a trip it was, etc. At DC, I talked to Neal Adams who said he didn't have anything for me, but then said 'Well, listen, how'd you like to work for me on a job for Warren?' I jumped at the chance."

What followed was a seemingly endless routine of getting a 3-day pass, leaving for New York early Friday morning, meeting Neal at DC and working through the night, sleeping on floors at Columbia University, working at the Art Students League, going to the Bronx to work at Neal's house, then back to Columbia U. Neal was a hard taskmaster, insisting that Steve get involved in every aspect of the job: layouts, pencils and inks. But the determination shown by both student and teacher paid off. The job was finished and it was a masterpiece.

Few Marvel readers know that Steve started out in the business as an artist. He did the variety of jobs any aspiring young artist does and penciled a couple of romance stories for MY LOVE and OUR LOVE STORY. He got involved in the editorial end of comics when a murder was committed in the apartment building where a drinking buddy resided. That buddy was Gary Friedrich, then one of Marvel's proofreaders and writers. (Gary has since returned to the Midwest where he has revived the rock-and-roll band he and Roy Thomas used to perform with.) Gary's wife insisted they get out of the city for a while after that harrowing experience. Gary asked Steve if he'd like to fill in on the staff job for a couple of weeks. Steve agreed and the temporary arrangement somehow became a permanent one. Or as permanent as anything is at the House of Ideas.

You see, nobody quite counted on Steve's turning out to be a good *writer*. His first story, "Pterror of the Pterodactyl", was pretty standard fare. But, when given The Beast series, to script, he quite frankly amazed everyone with his skill. From there, the Stainless One moved on to a variety of series, including a biggie —THE AVENGERS.

"I was happy and pleased and all that when Roy asked me if I would like to do the Avengers. It's always been one of my favorite strips. I think the issues Roy and John Buscema did were some of the best stuff ever produced by Marvel. I've been kind of feeling my way with the series for a while now and I'm still not quite as happy with it as the fans are. I've been trying to do it as Roy would, but it's going to change a little. It's going to be sort of strange in the future. But I don't want to give away any real details yet. I like surprises."

Surprise. A key word for Steve Englehart's work. And quite possibly the major reason he's become one of the best.

NEXT: THE ARTISTS OF THE AVENGERS

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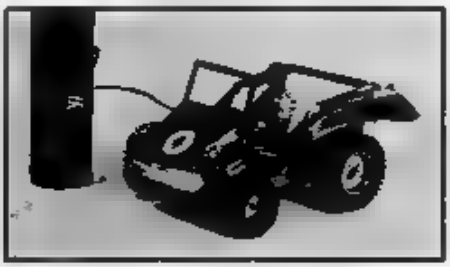

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These days, faithful one, Marvel seems to be incapable of standing still—even for a single moment. We've got mind-blasting new magazines in the works, we've hired some senses-shattering new staffers, and we've contracted for about a zillion nutty new knickknacks for the compleat Marvel mania. In short, we've got a ton of inside information and fascinating facts for you and we're going to get into it right now!

SPIDER-MAN JOINS THE ELECTRIC COMPANY

If you were on your toes last month, you've probably noticed the first issue of SPIDEY SUPER STORIES. In a joint effort with TV's *Electric Company*, Marvel has produced its first educational comic book. These are special Spider Man stories, written for kids on about a second grade level. It's 32 pages for 35¢—with no ads. The writer is Jean Thomas with John Romita supervising a team of artists that includes Mike Esposito, Don Heck, and Winslow Mortimer. So, if you've got a younger brother or sister that you want to introduce to the way-out world of Marvel wonderment, or, if you can't resist taking a peek at the thing yourself, pick up the latest issue of SPIDEY SUPER STORIES at your newsstands now!

CALENDARS, CLASSICS, AND CONVERSATION PIECES

While we're talking about special products, keep an eye out for the 1975 Marvel Calendar—as written up in PLAYBOY. It's got dynamic drawings of your favorite characters by your favorite artists, the birthdates of all the Marvel madmen, and other surprises that make it more fun than a barrel of Mangogs. So be sure to reserve your copy today. Better yet, reserve two copies, that way, you'll have one to mark up to your heart's content and one to preserve for posterity. After all, it's sure to become a collectors' item in a matter of weeks!

We've got a second special product coming your way in October —the magnificent ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS! That's right! Our big 256-page production featuring the origins and classic adventures of Spider Man, the Fantastic Four, Thor, the Hulk, and Dr Strange! It's being published by the prestigious Grosset and Dunlap publishing house and contains an epic text piece by Stan the Man himself, revealing the *true* story of how the Marvel Age of Comics was born —with so much behind the-scenes info that you'll swear you're going over the White House Transcripts!

It seems book publishers aren't the only ones who have discovered Marvel. Dozens of toy manufacturers have come to us with new products utilizing Marvel characters. In fact, you'll find an entire page of items in this very magazine. Like we said, Marvel is taking over the world!

AURORA ANNOUNCES NEW MODEL

With the tremendous success of their Spider-Man and Hulk models, the world-renowned Aurora Models outfit is planning to issue another Marvel Superhero hobby kit. Which superhero? None other than Captain America, Living Legend of World War II! And, here's the kicker. Aurora would like to do more model kits! And they'd like your help in deciding which character to do next. So grab a postcard and send your vote to: MARVEL MODELS, c/o Tony Isabella, Marvel Comics, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022. After we tally your votes and deliver the results to Aurora, we're going to put these cards in a box and draw out four names. Each of those lucky FOOMers will then receive either a Spider-Man or a Hulk model kit, absolutely free of charge. Just another Bullpen Bonus and it's for FOOM-members only! So get those votes in today!

WORLDS UNKNOWN IS BACK

Remember Marvel's most daring venture of late? The first new science fiction comic in twenty years? Well, it's back, but in an exciting new form. WORLDS UNKNOWN will return as an 84-page giant sized magazine at our new $1 price. The first issue will showcase the work of such outstanding talents as Neal Adams, Ross Andru, Frank Brunner, Ernie Chua, Gerry Conway, Frank Kelly Freas, Mike Kaluta, and Al Williamson. The first issue also contains an interview with Ray Bradbury, the first part of a two-part adaptation of John Wyndham's "The Day of the Triffids", and an adaptation of an award-winning story, Bob Shaw's "Light of Other Days". "Triffids" is the work of Gerry, Ross, and Ernie, while the Shaw classic will be scripted by Tony Isabella and drawn (hopefully) by Gene Colan. And that's only the beginning. This magazine will cover science-fiction from Edgar Rice Burroughs to Harlan Ellison. Among other features, Lin Carter's best-selling Jandar of Callisto! So watch for WORLDS UNKNOWN. It's going to be a blockbuster! (P.S. "Worlds Unknown" is only a tentative title for this new mag.)

IRON FIST GETS HIS OWN MAGAZINE

With the overwhelming success of THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU, Marvel's decided to add a companion magazine. IRON FIST, starring our newest Kung Fu star. Iron Fist will be featured in a 20 page story by Len Wein and Gil Kane. You'll see such exciting article features as "The Oriental World of Self Defense a Photo Study" by Len, and Marv and Michele Wolfman, and "Bruce Lee vs. Caine. Who is the Real Master of the Martial Arts?". Plus: a second comics thriller introducing a brother-sister team that's sure to take Marveldom by storm—DRAGONS TWO! Created by Tony Isabella and former Marvelmania editor Mark Evanier, this Kung Fu team is destined for greatness. See why in IRON FIST #1, on sale September 9th!

But that's not all we've got in mind for the Martial Arts enthusiasts. Starting with issue #4, THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU is going *monthly!* Not only is it going monthly, but THE DEADLY HANDS is undergoing a transformation of sorts as an exciting new artist, Mike Vosberg, takes over the artistic chores on the Shang-Chi series. Then, in issue #5, after an emergency fill-in story by Don Perlin, the Sons of the Tiger get a new look at the hands of Tony Isabella and Dan Green. So don't miss the new excitement in Martial Arts' most exciting publication!

NEW EDITOR NAMED

Things happen so fast at Marvel that we don't always get much of a chance to announce them. They just happen. But we figured—for obvious reasons—that we should belatedly report that FOOM's own Tony (the Tiger) Isabella has been appointed editor of several giant-sized magazines. Tony will be producing (under the guidance of Roy Thomas and the welcome advice of Marv Wolfman) THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU, THE HAUNT OF HORROR, IRON FIST,

MARVEL PREVIEW MONSTERS UNLEASHED, PLANET OF THE APES, and TALES OF THE ZOMBIE. In addition, Tony is the new East Coast Editor of MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES and will continue to supervise Marvel's three British weeklies. Always a glutton for punishment, Tony also plans to keep on editing FOOM MAGAZINE. The nutty little guy claims his new position will allow him to garner even more exciting features for this book. Let's face it, he's crazy.

Speaking of which, Marv Wolfman will still be editing CRAZY, DRACULA LIVES, and VAMPIRE TALES, while Roy Thomas will edit THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, SAVAGE TALES, and the new WORLDS UNKNOWN—with an assist on the latter from Gerry Conway. If they have any free time, our trio of editors plan to collapse.

WELCOME TO THE BULLPEN

Because of the limited space allowed us, we don't always get a chance to mention new Bullpenners in the color comics' Bullpen Pages. But we want to rectify any accidental slights here—where the elite of Marvel fandom hang out. So let's say hello to Stanley Aaron (our typesetter), Chris Claremont (assistant editor and a fine scripter in his own right), David Cohen (production manager for the British weeklies), Marcia Gloster (our dazzling designer), Len Grow (traffic coordinator on our black and white magazines), Annette Kawecki (our alluring new letterer), David Kraft (the newest piece of fodder for our proofreading cannon), Bob Mcleod (art and production), Nora Maclin (Ms. Gloster's equally dazzling assistant), Bill Mantlo (Jumbo John Verpoorten's much put-upon, but cheerful, assistant), Phil Rachelson (colorist and stat man), Roger Slifer (editorial assistant on the British weeklies), Irene Vartanoff (a real find: the former dean of our Distinguished Competition's letter column regulars, now assisting Roy Thomas), and Ron Wilson (a double-threat man: penciller of POWER MAN and an invaluable aide to Art Director John Romita). It may be a trifle late in coming for some of you, heroes, but we're glad to have you with us. Now get back to work!

WEDDING BELLS FOR LEGS

Mary "Legs" MacPherran, long-time secretary, receptionist, and all around good person, has finally done it! On her vacation this May, Mary got.. married! The lucky gent is Melvin Greenspan and we want to wish him and Mary all the happiness in the world!

YET ANOTHER NEW EDITOR NAMED

In the midst of Marvel's record breaking expansion, we've acquired a fourth editor. Let's have a

round of applause for Alan LeMond. Alan will be producing specail, non-comics magazines for Mighty Marvel The first of these will be a dramatic publication called HITLER. Utilizing exclusive photos, this magazine will relate the shocking story of the man who gave birth to World War II It's not a pleasant story. In fact, it's sub-title says it all "The Pleasure of the Past". The first issue will feature articles on Mae West, Babe Ruth, the hit Broadway musical "Grease", Doc Savage, and much more Alan's doing a bang-up job on this mag and we think you'll really go for it. That's NOSTALGIA ILLUSTRATED. Like we've said countless times before Marvel's on the move again!

FRAZETTA COVERS TO APPEAR ON CONAN

Through special arrangement with Frank Frazetta, Marvel will be unleashing a series of Frazetta covers on THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN magazine. These will be both the classic paintings used for the paperbacks and brand new paintings!

Speaking of Conan, you're going to see a variety of artists getting a crack at our sunburned Cimmerian. Coming up are tales drawn by Frank Brunner, Tony DeZuniga, and another story by Rich Buckler! So keep your eyes peeled, frantic one, you never know when these classics-in-the-making will turn up!

WRITER, WRITER, WHO'S GOT THE WRITER?

In Spring, it seems, a young Marvel writer's fancy turns to thoughts of switching his schedule about. The latest trade-offs have Len Wein giving MARVEL TEAM-UP (and its companion 50¢ book) to Gerry Conway for FANTASTIC FOUR (and its companion 50¢ book). Then, in a a second startling move, Len traded THE DEFENDERS (along with *its* 50¢ off-shoot) to Steve Gerber for DAREDEVIL. Finally, Len is going to assume, once more, the writing chores on MARVEL PREMIERE FEATURING IRON FIST Doug Moench will then take over both Morbius series in ADVENTURE INTO FEAR and VAMPIRE TALES. To ease Doug's workload, Tony Isabella will be writing the Man Wolf in our CREATURES ON THE LOOSE book. This means that Chris Claremont will be writing WAR IS HELL and Satana in THE HAUNT OF HORROR Which, in turn, means that Tony will also be taking over the GIANT-SIZE DRACULA title

Is that clear?

(Thank heavens we didn't mention that Gerry Conway is doing a fill-in DAREDEVIL, Marv Wolfman is doing a fill in GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR, and Steve Gerber and Len Wein are teaming up on the next GIANT SIZE DEFENDERS—utilizing a rough idea tossed at them by Tony Isabella. After all, there is a limit to how much any one comics outfit can confuse the readers!)

CAPSULE COMMENTS

Now that the major news stories are out of the way, here's a listing of some of the upcoming excitement in our vast and ever-increasing line of merry masterpieces. Alphabetically:

ADVENTURE INTO FEAR: Morbius the Living Vampire vs. Blade the Vampire Slayer; science versus sorcery as the Children of the Comet battle the Demon Hordes of Daemond; with Morbius trapped in the middle!

AMAZING ADVENTURES: The Death Breeders.. Killraven vs. the Stalkers as Craig Russell takes over the artistic chores...Chicago, 2019 A.D.....Adam 3,031 and Eve–3,031. ..the origin of Volcanic Ash. more on the relationship between Carmilla Frost and Grok...plus the blood sacrifice of Don McGregor!

ASTONISHING TALES: Deathlok vs. the War-Wolf, the cyborg who was created to destroy the Demolisher!

AVENGERS: Kang the Conqueror . the return of Hawkeye . the Beast...and in GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #2, the death of an Avenger!

CAPTAIN AMERICA: Steve Rogers —alone against the Golden Archer. .the incredible origin of the Nomad . the shattering comeback of the Serpent Squad (the Cobra, the Eel, Princess Python, and as the new Viper, Madame Hydra)!

CAPTAIN MARVEL: Ant Man and the Wasp. Annihilus...the Living Laser; the Lunatic Legion. what's more, it's all in one wild issue plotted by Steve Englehart, scripted by Mike Friedrich, drawn by Alfredo Alcala.

CONAN.: "The Tower of Blood"...more of Red Sonja.. "The Last Ballad of Lazalanti" .the Dark Valley...while in GIANT SIZE CONAN #2, the Barbarian King faces "The Haunter of the Pit" ..giant size bonus: "Zukala's Daughter" with all-new coloring by Barry Smith!

CRAZY: Make way for the special Reject issue

Continued on Page 22

THE MAKING OF A MAN-GOD: 1974
by Roy Thomas

It all began, as a goodly number of things do around Marvel Comics, with Stan Lee.

The publisher of a line of comic-books and comics-oriented magazines is, of necessity, a creature of ephemera. He must spot trends, fashions, fads, and frenzies— bandwagons to leap upon, if you will.

Thus it was with the earliest comic-book publishers, who first saw that newsstand-sold reprints of newspaper strips had a considerable market. Thus it was with the publishers who copied both each other and themselves in the late 1930's and early 40's, piling superhero upon superhero in an orgy of colorful costumes. Thus it was in the early 1960's when (as revealed more fully in Stan's upcoming opus, *The Origin of Marvel Comics*, due out this fall from Simon & Schuster) Martin Goodman saw that virtually every comics publisher except himself was publishing comics about masked do-gooders again, so that he asked Stan Lee to come up with a costumed super-group, and the Fantastic Four was born.

And thus it still is, and probably ever shall be.

Any publisher worth his salt, however— or any writer, artist, or editor who aspires to be anything more than a space-filling benchwarmer— wishes not merely to catch the rising star of the moment, but also to create something *durable*— something which will outlast the short-lived fads of a fickle populace and survive on its own virtues, regardless of changing tastes

Thus Spider-Man, the F.F., and friends have long out-lasted the trendy movement toward superheroes that began in the late 1950's and early 60's, and have made the so-called Golden Age of Comics look like a mere weekend by comparison. Thus, blushingly, our *Conan the Barbarian* title began at the tail-end of the sword-and-sorcery boom in paperbacks, and not only survived but thrived— till it sparked anew an interest in the genre and obviously sent thousands of new readers rushing from comic-racks to paperback-shelves to pick up further adventures of the stalwart Cimmerian and his ilk. Thus, if we've done our jobs right, Shang Chi and Iron Fist may well be around when "Kung Fu" is in permanent re-runs and Bruce Lee festivals are a thing of the past, and we've every hope that "Deathlok" may outlast the similar (though unrelated) "Six Million Dollar Man."

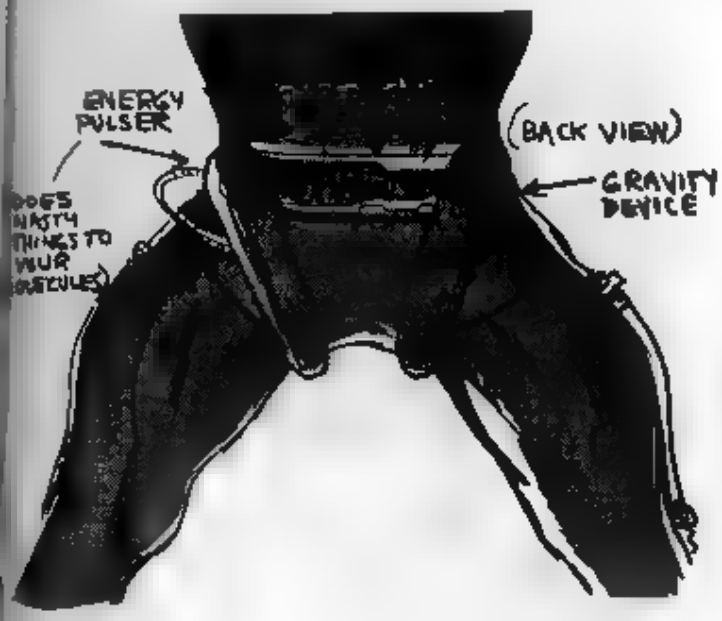
And thus: MAN-GODS FROM BEYOND THE STARS.

Some time back, Stan noticed— as who *didn't?*— the flurry of interest in books that dealt with the theory that aliens from outer space had visited Earth and influenced the events in mankind's pre-history Von Daniken was first (among the popularizers, at least), but many others followed

Stan knew, of course, that he and Jack Kirby had already touched on that theory years before, when the unearthly Kree wandered into the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR Even Silver Surfer and, later, Warlock had been tentative steps in that direction.

Now, however, Stan thought that a non-comics magazine devoted to bringing together information and photos on this intriguing hypothesis might just be a lively addition to Marvel's new line of 75¢ and $1 magazines. He suggested as much to me, one bright clear winter morning early in 1974.

At first I was hesitant. After all, there seemed to be quite enough *books* on the subject, without adding a magazine which, by its very nature, could merely review and re-hash what had already been done



Still, I just couldn't help thinking about the idea for the next 24 hours, despite all the other 101 hectic things which needed doing. And, that evening, it hit me: Why not *combine* the idea of a straight magazine with what Marvel does best (namely, comic books)— and do a *fictionalized* version of the theory? Not that we'd insist or pretend or imagine that what our writers and artists were putting down was Gospel, with big or little "g"— but we'd be putting the whole thing in concrete form, to show one way that it *might* have happened. Perhaps *many* ways that it might have happened.

By the next day, I was ready to present the whole outline of the magazine to Stan, I'd found that I literally couldn't turn off my thinking about the mag until the wee small hours of the morning. Stan listened for a minute— nodded, as if he'd known all along I'd be forced to come up with *something* once he'd put a verbal bee in my bonnet— said "Great, go to it!"— and set about to find a place to publish the one-shot wonder, once I'd put it together. But, that's another story, which will be unfolded more fully in the first $1 issue of MARVEL PREVIEW, when the "Man-Gods" feature makes its dramatic debut.

For myself, I went almost at once to Rich Buckler, with whom I've enjoyed working on Avengers and Conan epics in the past, and discussed the idea. As I expected, Rich was every bit as enthusiastic as I was. And, when editorial duties precluded my doing more than coming up with the basic premise and outline of the series, the same was true of Doug Moench, who had already worked so well with Rich in the pages of DEATHLOK THE DEMOLISHER.

Don't let anybody fool you with stories about how all the full-time comics pros are jaded deadline watchers, and that all the good, inspired work is turned out by painstaking plodders who spend so much time on a single page that when they're done they've noodled each panel within an inch of its life. When things are really cooking, there's nobody who gets more inspired, more involved with what they're doing than most of the writers and artists of the Marvel Bullpen.

I know. I see it happen all the time. Sometime I help *make* it happen; sometime I just stand back and try not to get in the way too much. Both approaches are logical functions of an editor, and I unblushingly used both in getting out the first issue of MARVEL PREVIEW.

So I'm proud of Doug and Rich and what they're doing (even as I write these words) with the concept and broad plot outline I handed them.

I'm proud of Marv Wolfman and Dave Cockrum, who came up on their own with a slightly different approach to the same theory, and whose "Good Lord!" is an added gem you'll savor in MARVEL PREVIEW #1.

I'm proud of Ed Summer, proprietor of the Supersnipe Comic Art Emporium at 2nd Avenue and East 84th in New York (as well as a filmmaker in his own right), for volunteering to read virtually all the myriad books on the subject and do an extended piece on them.

As to whether you'll like what we've done? Well, that's not for me to say.

But, I do know this: we tried. We gave it our all.

That's what it's all about, right?

Continued from Page 19

if the magazine that dares to be dumb. ."Kung Fooey Rides Again" by Marv Wolfman and Marie Severin (originally done for SPOOF).. "Frogs"or what we would do without "Mooses"... "The Tattle Tale Heart" by Marie, Stu Schwartzberg, and Edgar Allen Poe...all this and more junk in our big 7th issue...meanwhile, Law and Order gets it in ish #8!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE: Kraven the Hunter stalks the murderous Man-Wolf...revealed at last: the secret of the Moon Stone!

DAREDEVIL: The final battle with the Death-Stalker...the fate of the Black Widow...the return of the Owl...just around the corner, the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! (And, in case you haven't deciphered the code message on page 28 yet, this isn't the future appearance that message reveals!)

DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU: Shang-Chi goes to Hollywood to find an old friend, a boyhood buddy turned Kung Fu movie star...the airborne showdown between the Sons of the Tiger and Lo Chin...Martial Arts instructions by Frank McLaughlin...with all kinds of surprise features and stories in the works.

DEFENDERS: The Valkyrie quits....the Hulk quits...Luke Cage, Power Man takes on what's left of the dynamic Defenders...an old foe of Thor's, the Wrecker, shows up with his new partners: Bulldozer, Piledriver, and Thunderball... while in GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS #3, Daredevil teams up with the Defenders to battle the Games-Master for the soul of Nighthawk!

DOCTOR STRANGE: Sorcerer supreme vs. Silver Dagger in a mystic free-for-all! (This will be Frank Brunner's last issue for a while as he takes some time off to do a few special stories. His replacement will be the sensational Craig Russell.)

DRACULA LIVES: "Scarlet in Glory" by Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, and Mike Esposito..."Dracula in London" by Roy Thomas and Dick Giordano..."The Lady Who Collected Dracula" by Doug Moench and Tony Dezuniga.

FANTASTIC FOUR: Sue Storm quits the F.F. ...Len Wein takes over the writing assignment with the devastating debut of Zerox the Multiple Man...a new career for the Invisible Girl...and back at GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR #2, everybody's favorite quartet goes up against the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse!

FRANKENSTEIN: .A new friend for the monster...plus the introduction of a creature composed from the cloned bodies of so many different animals that writer Doug Moench hasn't even figured out a name for it yet!

GHOST RIDER: Johnny Blaze stands against Satan himself, but this time, the Ghost Rider is powerless...the Hulk...the return of the Phantom Eagle (in a fill-in issue drawn by Herb Trimpe)... plus a new life for Johnny Blaze!

HAUNT OF HORROR: Sonny Trinidad is the new artist on Gabriel, Devil-Hunter...Pablo Marcos is the new artist on Satana as Chris Claremont reveals the senses-shattering secret of Miles Gorney...watch this mag for the first American appearance of two great new artists, Steve Gan and Yong Montano.

HULK: The Wolverine...the Wendigo...two new characters...and a new supporting character: Crackajack Jackson.

IRON MAN: The wrap-up of the Yellow Claw battle. .then, the Golden Avenger goes to a comic book convention in a story centered around the San Diego gathering announced in the Bullpen Page a few months ago...guest-stars galore!

JUNGLE ACTION: The Black Panther vs. Killmonger in the epic struggle you've been clamoring for...the Land of the Chilling Mist ...remember the Man-Ape? Well, now T'Challa meets the real thing—the rampaging White Gorillas...do you get the feeling the Panther would like to meet a few ordinary foes?

KA-ZAR: Gerry Conway and John Buscema take over the book in "Waters of Darkness, River of Doom"...look for more fantasy here, courtesy of the Conway Kid.

MAN-THING: Mike Ploog exits with "Dance to the Murder"...in GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING #2, the most sinister swamp creature of them all gets captuured and taken to New York (guest-starring the Fantastic Four)...John Buscema does a fill-in issue called "Song-Cry of the Living Dead Man"...Alfredo Alcala does a two-parter which reunites Jennifer Kale and Korrek...meanwhile Steve Gerber hangs in there faithfully, a boy and his monster!

MARVEL PREMIERE: Iron Fist vs. Triple-Iron in a Citadel of Instant Death...Danny Rand reaches a turning point in his incredible life...artist Larry Hama fights a desperate battle for truth, justice, and making the deadline!

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: The Son of Satan—trapped in a "Madhouse!"...the strangest exorcism of all time in "Demon, Demon, Who's Got the Demon?"...and, starting with issue #18, Gene Colan is the new artist for our Satannic sibling.

MARVEL TEAM-UP: Spider-Man and the Hulk vs. the Chameleon Spider-Man and Hercules vs. "The City Stealers" in Gerry Conway's first issue, featuring a surprise villain! (The reason it's such a surprise is that Gerry, as we write this,

is five pages into the story and hasn't decided who the villain will be yet!)

MARVEL TWO IN ONE: The Thing and Dr. Strange meet a little girl and her harmonica, it could only be a Steve Gerber story. the Thing and Valkyrie vs two surprise villains. (Hey, knock it off with the surprise villains already!)

MASTER OF KUNG FU: Join Doug Moench, Al Milgrom (in his pencilling premiere), and a guy named Shang-Chi on the mighty Amazon in "River of Death!"...then follow the son of Fu Manchu to China in GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU #2 and (believe it or not) a fateful romance!

MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES Don't miss issue #3—our "Vampires" issue.. Barnabas.. Count Yorga...you get them all .plus an exclusive article by Russ Jones on his experiences behind the scenes at Hammer Films!

MONSTERS UNLEASHED By popular demand—the long-awaited comeback of Gullivar Jones, Warrior of Mars by Tony Isabella (writer), Rich Buckler & George Perez (pencillers), and Pablo Marcos (inker). It's scheduled for issue #8. . and coming up in this mag in the not-so-distant future: the Man-Thing by Len Wein and Marv Wolfman; the Manphibian by Marv Wolfman and Dave Cockrum; Tigra the Were-Woman by Tony Isabella, Don Perlin, and Pablo Marcos, The Wendigo (from the Hulk series) by Chris Claremont, and a host of other new strip ideas...lest we forget, the Frankenstein Monster by Doug Moench & Val Mayerik will be in almost every issue of this mag.

PLANET OF THE APES: Jason and Alexander, outcasts on a world where beasts rule over men, must travel into the deadly Forbidden Zone in the second sensational issue of this mag. . our adaptation of the original "Apes" movie continues.. Flash! We're so delighted with the first issue of this mag that, even before the first issue hits the stands, we've raised its publication frequency to 8 times a year!

POWER MAN. Luke Cage vs. Stiletto and a deadly new super-foe, Discus...Power Man goes west in search of Claire Temple and visits Security City, a planned community run by a (ta taa!) surprise super villain ..for further details, see our code page.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN: "Black Colossus" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema, and Alfredo Alcala...Blackmark by Gil Kane ..King Kull by Steve Englehart and Howie Chaykin... "Chronicle of the Sword", the first installment of a regular column by Lin Carter...in the works, "Worms of the Earth", a Bran Mak Morn story by Roy and Barry Smith. Bran, a Pictish hero, is yet another

creation from the imaginative mind of Robert E. Howard

SAVAGE TALES: Ka-Zar and Shanna the She-Devil—together once more in a 30-page blockbuster by Gerry Conway, John Buscema, and Tony DeZuniga...Brak the Barbarian by John Jakes, Doug Moench, and Steve Gan...also a few more surprises, fellow dog-brothers.

SPIDER MAN: Just when you thought we'd run out of far-out new foes for your friendly neighborhood wall-crawler, enter Mind-Worm . that's not all, folks, wait'll you see the Grizzly . plus Peter Parker's new pad and the return of an old foe...finally, to prove Gerry Conway and Ross Andru have completely flipped, GIANT SIZE SPIDER-MAN #3 teams the ol' Webhead with—DOC SAVAGE! It's Marvel madness at it's greatest!

STRANGE TALES: Tony DeZuniga takes over the art chores when the Golem battles the Demon Hordes of Kaballa!

SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS More on the Living Mummy's quest to regain his lost humanity as he faces "A Choice of Lions"...a new inker—Dan Adkins...more of the Elementals.. and the master thief of all time, the Asp!

TALE OF THE ZOMBIE. Simon Garth, the Man Without a Soul, in "A Death Made of Ticky-Tacky" by Steve Gerber and Pablo Marcos. starting with issue #9, Alfredo Alcala takes over the art end of the Zombie series. .Brother Voodoo returns. .keep an eye out for a new series, "Voodoo Island", created by Doug Moench from an idea by Tony Isabella.

THOR "Where Darkness Dwells, Dwell I" where in Hercules and the Thunder God enter a Lovecraftian type story line.. also, watch out for the Space Wolf—in a story plotted by Rich Buckler!

TOMB OF DRACULA: Beginning in issue #26, a three-art story involving the legendary Chimera . guest appearance by King Kull...the secret of Taj's son...more on Frank, Rachel, and Quincy... and, in GIANT-SIZE DRACULA #3, Chris Claremont and Don Heck bring you "Slow Death on the Killing Ground!"

VAMPIRE TALES. "Where is Gallows Bend and What the Hell am I Doing There?" -an 18-page Morbius story by Don McGregor and Tom Sutton Marv Wolfman and Tony DeZuniga will be writing and drawing the Blade series, starting with issue # 8 ..plus stories drawn by Howie Chaykin, Billy Graham, and Paul Gulcacy, The latter will be inked by FOOM staffer Duffy Vohland, his first major inking job for Marvel Congratulations, big fella!

WAR IS HELL: "The Corridor" continues the life after death activities of John Kowalski as he finds himself in the body of a Jewish father trying to escape the German invasion of Poland and save his family

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT Doug Moench and Don Perlin bust out with "The Murderer is a Maniac", introducing Atlas.. and coming up in a few weeks, the Werewolf goes shopping! (You've got to see this to believe it, troops!)

That's the news report for this issue of FOOM, pilgrims. Be with us next issue when we reveal the earth shattering secret of the Golden Foomer! (Huh?!)

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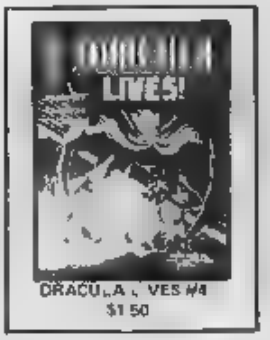

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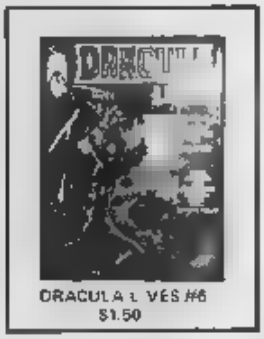
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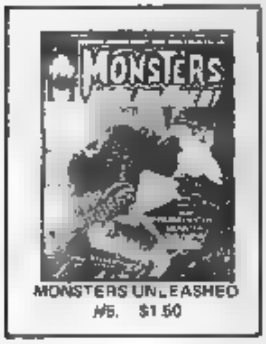

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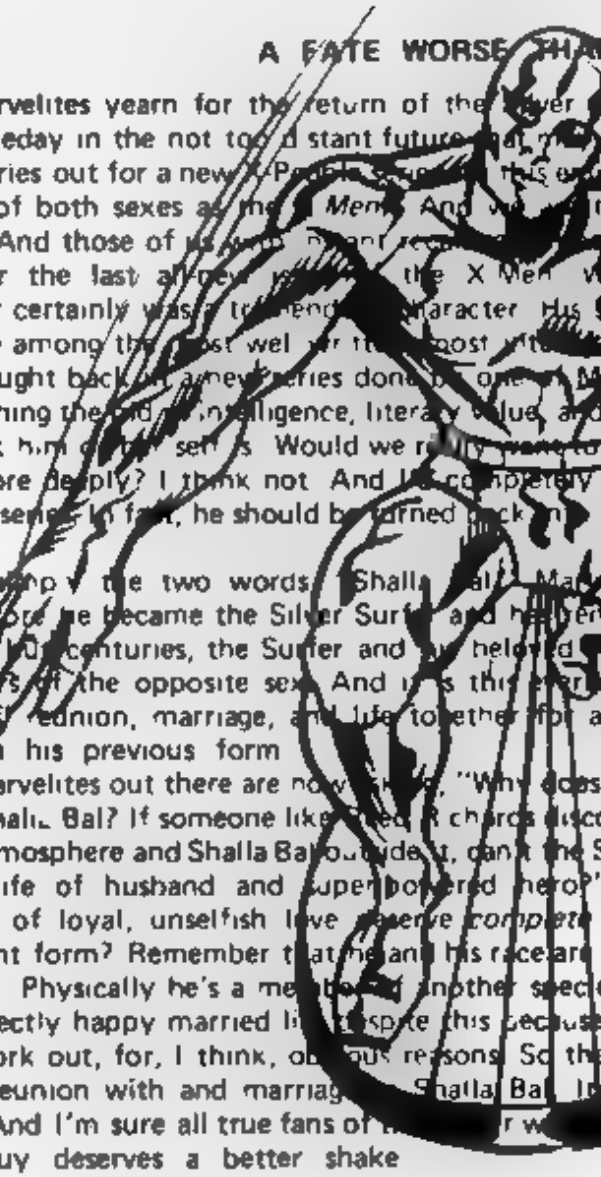


A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH

Many, many Marvelites yearn for the return of the Silver Surfer in a new series of original stories. And who knows? Maybe someday in the not too distant future that may come to pass. For some segment of Marveldom Assembled which cries out for a new X-Men series, this enlightened age we can no longer refer to a group that includes members of both sexes as merely *Men*. And we're told that soon people will soon get a new series of original stories. And those of us who haven't recently reread that the last issue of the Silver Surfer appeared three months after the last all-new issue of the X-Men was published.

The Silver Surfer certainly was a tremendous character. His stories in FANTASTIC FOUR and especially in his own magazine were among the most well-written, most intelligent stories in graphic magazine history. And I guess that if he were brought back in a new series done by one of Marvel's better writers, the new series would at least come close to matching the old in intelligence, literary value, and absorbing entertainment. But a question each Silver Surfer fan must ask himself is: Would we really want to do that to the Surfer? Would they, if they thought about his plight more deeply? I think not. And I'm completely done with them. The Silver Surfer should not get another continuing series. In fact, he should be returned back into his original human self and dropped as a character.

Why?

The answer is simply the two words: Shalla Bal. Marvelites will all remember that she was the Surfer's everlasting love before he became the Silver Surfer and has remained that ever since. And "everlasting" is right! After not decades, but centuries, the Surfer and his beloved still cling to each other's memory. They don't even look twice at others of the opposite sex. And it is this everlasting love that I'm sure all Surfer fans would agree demands the lovers' reunion, marriage, and life together for as long as they remain alive. And that's why the Surfer must regain his previous form.

I'm sure some Marvelites out there are now saying, "Why does the Silver Surfer have to revert to his human form when he marries Shalla Bal? If someone like Reed Richards discovers a way to break through the barrier that keeps the Surfer in our atmosphere and Shalla Bal outside it, can't the Surfer just settle down on Earth or his home planet and lead a dual life of husband and super-powered hero?" Well, I guess he *could*. But...

Those centuries of loyal, unselfish love deserve *complete* relief. And what kind of relief could the Surfer get in his present form? Remember that he and his race are human, just like ours. But the Surfer in his present form isn't a human. Physically he's a member of another species. And while theoretically he and Shalla should be able to have a perfectly happy married life despite this because they're totally in love with each other, practically it just wouldn't work out, for, I think, obvious reasons. So the final solution to the problem of the Silver Surfer must be not just reunion with and marriage to Shalla Bal. It must also include a permanent change back to his original form. And I'm sure all true fans of the Silver Surfer will agree. So let's stop this "Revive the Silver Surfer" talk. The poor guy deserves a better shake.

—Lester Boutillier

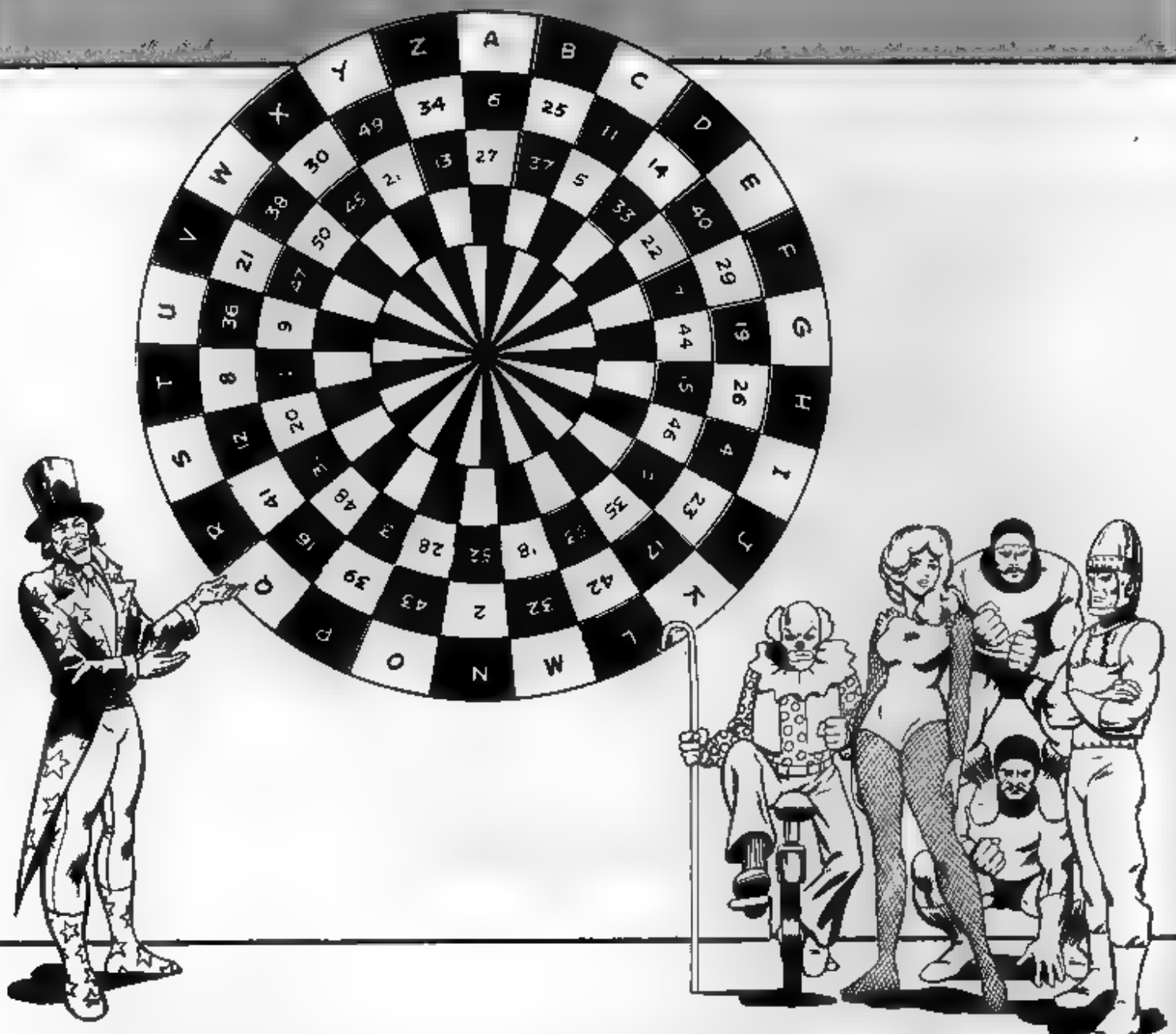
ANSWER TO FOOM FORUM—

Well, Lester, we're sure of one thing, your analysis of the Silver Surfer is sure to evoke a lot of response from Silver Surfer fans! We do disagree with your analysis, however. For one thing, you are completely ignoring any but the romantic aspects of the strip. Even though the Silver Surfer's love life was an integral part of his saga, it was not just that aspect that made his character so appealing. It is not just that the Surfer is exiled on earth, but how he reacts to that exile. His relationships with the various humans that he has encountered provoke the readers into taking a look at their own lives.

Even your solution to all the Surfer's problems isn't that simple. Just because one unites with another in marriage doesn't necessarily solve all of his (or her) problems (and if you don't believe us, then you haven't been reading FANTASTIC FOUR for the last several months). But like we said, we're sure that your fellow fans will have plenty to say after reading your suggestions, so we'll just sit back and relax for the next couple of months and wait for their comments to roll in.

The address is: FOOM FORUM, Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. So what are you waiting For?

THE CODE OF THE CIRCUS



A circus is composed of many people, traveling from show to show, often with no real home other than the caravan of trucks they do this traveling in. Small wonder then, that circus people tend to cluster together, almost as if they were a family. When the circus is composed of the Ringmaster and his evil cronies, the family is more like a well-trained army! To pull off their fantastic crimes, the Ringmaster and his troupe developed a secret number code, which has been released to FOOM MAGAZINE through the offices of District Attorney Franklin Nelson. The circular chart above shows the breakdown of this doubly-random code. The idea is to alternate between the two numbers to confuse outsiders. For example, if "R" is written as "41" the first time it is used it should be written as "31" the second time. Here's an example

PRINCESS PYTHON HAS JOINED THE SERPENT SQUAD TO BATTLE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON.

This message, in code, becomes:

39-41 4-2-11-40-12-20 3-49-8-26-43-52 15-6-12 23-28-46-2-22-14 1-26-40 20-22-31-39-40-52-8 12-16-36-17-33

Now here's a message about the Ringmaster's next appearance, which will take place several months from now. Try deciphering it.

8-26-40 41-4-2-19-32-6-12-1-22-31 27-52-14 15-46-20 6-42-53-2-40-38 11-4-31-5-36-12 43-29 11-41 46-18-22 8-27 17-40 28-52 42-9-35-22 5-6-44-40 27-52-33 19-43-53-4-6-1-26 25-36-8 50-15-46-11-26 5-28-42-4-27-1-5...

the VOICE OF FOOM!

Dear Stan and Company,

In the past, Marvel Comics has sponsored a super-hero contest, a limericks contest, and a stamp collecting contest. My brothers and I have enclosed three snapshots as our entry into your:

(1) Snapshot contest
(2) The largest Goblin poster contest
(3) The most posters contest
(4) The best Foom-room contest
(5) The making up contests contest

The methods we used to make the posters are very similar to the "Skil-O-Gram" in the third issue of Foom.

Patrick Robinson
367 Merrill St.
Thunder Bay, Ont.
Canada
P7A 1E5

Well, Pat, as your fellow Marvelites can attest by looking at this photo, if we ever did run a largest Goblin contest you'd certainly walk away with first prize! We really dig your pad, fella. We're just sorry we didn't have room to print the rest of your far-out photos.

Dear Foom Folk,

I started reading Marvel some years ago in college and have been a steady fan. I am now employed as a youth worker and Director of Christian Education at a large church here in Worcester. I have found the comics to be of great aid in my work.

As a specific example, the set of Spideys dealing with the death of Gwen Stacy were very useful in approaching the whole concept of death and grief. I am convinced that several young people were greatly helped by these episodes.

Also, Harry Osborne's encounters with drugs have been well planned and a good basis for beginning discussion.

I have also used DD's blindness and Don Blake's lameness as starting points for conversations on handicaps, both for normal and handicapped children.

Unfortunately, most people are still laboring under the misconception that all comics are poorly written, grammatical nightmares dealing with escapist themes. I, myself, have been reprimanded for dispensing comics and using them in my work. It has gotten to the point where I am forced to defend my opinions by addressing the congregation on the importance of the comic in today's society.

Perhaps FOOM can do all of us fans a favor by doing an article, or better yet, a series of articles dealing with the theme of the value of comics. Such facts as the use of comics for remedial reading programs and other educational purposes could be brought out. Quotes from psychologists, educators and teachers who advocate the use of comics would be of great interest to Foomers.

I, for one, am tired of store clerks who make comments when I buy my Marvels. Those of us who enjoy your work and who depend on it for many reasons would appreciate some facts to back up our arguments. I think Foom Magazine would be an ideal place for such assistance.

Keep up the good work!

Excelsior!

Sari Bitticks
8 St. Elmo Rd.
Worcester, Ma. 01602

Will do, Ms. Bitticks!

Sorry to say, though, that because of space limitations we haven't done an article like you suggest yet. But it's a definite possibility. You might point out to your critics, in the meantime, the item in our news section concerning our recent joint venture with the Electric Company. We, like yourself and many others from whom we receive letters, feel that projects like these are very important. And believe us when we say that your efforts are very appreciated.

All which leads us to the bottom of our letters page and one of the thousands of FOOM limericks which have poured into our offices the past few months...

The hands of SHANG-CHI are quite able,
To cut through a steel-coated cable,
But to cut loaves of bread,
Why, he uses his head,
And he frequently smashes the table!

David Phelan

Address all letters to: THE VOICE OF FOOM
Marvel Comics
575 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Stan Lee Presents
THE EVER-POPULAR FORBUSH-MAN
"THOSE WEDDING BELLS ARE BUSTIN' UP THAT AVENGIN' GANG OF MINE!"
WELL, PRILGRIMS --SINCE I'M JUST KINDA HANGIN' AROUND, I'M GONNA TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY ABOUT LOVE, ROMANCE, AND...
MARRIAGE?!!
BY TONY, PATY, DUFFY AND PAUL & ALAN K.
GEE, WANDA, I... ER...
I'M LATE FOR MY 6000-MILE TUNE-UP--
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE...
URK!
ZAPS!
NOT QUICK ENOUGH, RED!
THIS ONE MUST SPEAK TO MR. LEE ABOUT THIS NONSENSE! THIS ONE IS ALSO GETTING SICK OF CALLING HERSELF "THIS ONE"
COME ON, VISH, WE'RE GOING TO A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR!
HELLO, DAVID MY NAME IS HAL...
METHINKS I DIDST IMBIBE TOO MUCH NECTAR OF THE... URP... GODS.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI
MASTER OF KUNG FU
ONCE HE GETS THROUGH BRAINWASH... ER... TALKING TO YOU, YOU'LL REALIZE HOW WONDERFUL MARRIAGE REALLY IS!
I THINK I BROKE MY DRIVE SHAFT...!
KNOCK KNOCK

YOU GOTTA HELP ME, IAN!
EVER THINK OF DRINKING SOME ANTI-FREEZE, VISH?
NOW STOP BEING RIDICULOUS, YOU SYNTHETIC BIMBO!
GET A LOAD OF THAT CHICK! YOU DON'T FIND A CHASSIS LIKE THAT JUST ANYWHERE!
YEAH... BUT...
JUST THINK OF IT. A QUIET LITTLE HOME IN THE SUBURBS.
MAYBE EVEN FLATBUSH!
HMMMM.
NO AVENGERS MANSION WITH JARVIS DOING ALL THE WORK?!!
A LOVELY WIFE TO WAIT ON YOU HAND AND FOOT AFTER A HARD DAY OF SUPER-HEROING.
HAND AND FOOT?!
AND, IN TIME... LITTLE BUNDLES OF JOY!
YEAH!
JOYFUL! JOYFUL MY AVENGERS ID CARD!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET MARRIED!
HOW'D YOU LIKE YOUR TRANSISTORS SHORTED, MALE CHAUVINIST SYNTHIZOID?
I AIN'T MARRYING YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE!
SLAM!
CRASH!
FRANKLY, SCARLET, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!
PLEASURE DOIN' BUSINESS WITH YOU, VISH.

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